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The New Zealand Beekeepers' Journal.

DECEMBER 21st, 1914.

ISSUED MONTHLY
FOR
THE NATIONAL BEE-KEEPER'S
ASSOCIATION OF N.Z.

PER ANNUM: 3/6 IN ADVANCE.



STONE, SON & CO., LTD., PRINTERS, DUNEDIN.

National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand.

The object of the Association is the Improvement of the Beekeeping Industry and furthering the interests and the prosperity of the Beekeepers throughout the Dominion.

Membership is extended to any Beekeeper who is in accord with the aims and objects of the Association, on payment of a small fee.

Read the Report of Conference, and see what the first year's work has done for the Beekeeper. We shall be glad to have you as a member.

DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS AFFILIATED.

Waikato Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., W. Hooper Teed, Waihou, Thames Valley.

Taranaki Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., H. W. Warcup, Hawera.

Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., Miss Mackay, Sockburn.

Pahiatua Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., G. Bentley, Pahiatua.

Southland Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., L. Gardiner, 119 Elles Road, Invercargill.

South Canterbury Beekeepers' Association. Hon. Sec., B. Gordon Edwards, Orari Bridge, Geraldine.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE NATIONAL BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND.

President: Mr. Jas. Allan, "Oakleigh," Wyndham.

Vice-President: Mr. J. S. Cotterell, Manawaru, Te Aroha.

Executive: Messrs. H. W. Gilling, Matapu, Taranaki; S. Hutchinson, Hamilton East; C. A. Jacobsen, Little River; A. Ireland, 24 Andover Street, Merivale, Christchurch.

General Secretary-Treasurer: Mr. R. W. Brickell, P.O. Box 572, Dunedin.

A large membership will give the Executive increased funds with which to develop the local and foreign markets and push the export trade. Increased demand will raise the value of your honey crop.

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The Official Organ of the
National Beekeepers' Association of N.Z.

No. 6 DUNEDIN. 3/6 Per Annum.

At no time in the history of the beekeeping industry have the prospects before producers been brighter than they are to-day. We had hoped to be able to announce the completion of the contract, which will secure to the beekeepers of the Dominion good prices for a period of some three years at least. The law's delays and the great distance between the interested parties have, however, prevented the completion of the documents. Readers, however, can rest assured that the arrangements are being pushed on with all possible speed, and we believe that before the year 1915 is many days old the necessary papers to enable each and every producer to secure the advantages of the offer of Major Norton, outlined in previous issues, will be distributed.

In the meantime we can in all sincerity wish you

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Work for the Month.

(By Jas. Allan.)

January is the centre month of the honey harvest for most of New Zealand. If the temperature is high and the amount of moisture sufficient, the bees simply pour in the honey. I have not data to go on for northern districts, but in the south we expect but little honey until after the New Year. In Canterbury, especially in dry seasons, December may be as good as January. It is, however, hardly ever so in Southland. It would be a good thing if in each district an observant beekeeper would keep records of the seasons and their results, and have them tabulated so as to supply information to those requiring it. Not long ago I had a letter from a lady in the South of England who purposes coming to New Zealand next year to start beekeeping. She was anxious to know about the prospects in that direction, and I should have been quite glad to supply the information had it been available, but it was not. I could only speak from my own experience.

Supering.

It is somewhat difficult for me to write on this subject just now. I have just come in from my bees, and although it is only one week from the longest day, I have been giving the colonies each a 1 lb. pat of honey to keep them going. We have

not a super on yet. One colony was so foolish as to swarm, and the swarm had to get a pat of honey with the rest, or it would have died. However, we all know how quickly the bees recover under the stimulus of fine days and plenty of nectar, and probably before these notes are in the readers' hands a change may have taken place. In any case, further north the prospects are very good, and the promise is for an abundant harvest.

Alexander Method.

At one time the writer favoured the plan so successfully adopted by Alexander—that of giving only one super to each colony and keeping the extractor going. There are two objections to this plan, and neither of them can be easily got over. One is the swarming difficulty. For a strong colony, with the queen confined to ten frames and having on only one super, one super is not enough. It requires more room. The other is that frequent extracting during a heavy honey flow while the temperature is high and the air charged with moisture is liable to produce honey so unripe that it will become acid in flavour, and may even ferment, and become unmarketable. Take as an instance a flow in which a colony is able to bring in from 15 lbs. to 20 lbs. of nectar per day. A strong colony with only one super of ten combs would be blocked in about four days, and such honey could not in the circumstances be properly ripened. There are locations or conditions of the atmosphere in which it is safe to extract honey that has only been three or four days in the hive. (The writer once shook 100 colonies for foul-brood, and the honey that was gathered during the four days the colonies were on starters was extracted, filling two 60-lb. tins, and granulated quite hard, with no tendency towards acidity.) But no beekeeper should take risks of that kind; consequently his only alternative is to add room. To work with only one super has much to commend it in so far as handling is concerned, but for the foregoing reasons, with strong colonies,

Two Super Plan.

I prefer to work with two supers, and I do not think that the strongest colony requires more than that, unless the apiarist wishes to leave all extracting until the end of the main honey flow. Then, of course, it is just a case of going in for the sky-scraper business, adding supers as they are needed. In such cases I should think an electric lift for the bees would be an advantage. Now I am tramping on somebody's toes—somebody who likes to see his colonies five and six storeys high. I have no one in my mind, but I see lots of photos of apiaries where these skyscrapers are prominent. To me, to load up a colony that way would be to shut me out of the brood-nest altogether, and I would not like that. I prefer to extract when the combs are from one-half to two-thirds sealed. Working with two supers, and extracting at that stage, there is no difficulty in having plenty of room in the hive. Perhaps in a district where both air and plant life were surcharged with moisture, where the nectar was very abundant and watery, this might not be safe: in my own case, working thus I cannot remember a case of sour honey in an experience of nearly thirty years.

Sour Honey.

One thing is certain—we must not run any risk of unripe honey. If present plans carry, we are going on the English market with a large proportion of our crop this year, and it will be to our own interest to see that nothing acid goes forward. I should imagine that this will be one of the most important points for the graders to watch in grading. We are selling on the grade note, and if our expectations are realised, one agency will deal with the surplus honey of the Dominion. It will be put on the English market in the favourite English package—that is, bottles—and bearing our own brand. And now, if ever, is the time for us as beekeepers to do our best and secure a market, and lift our marketing of honey from the present haphazard system to one exactly in line with that of dairy produce.

REPORT ON HONEY CROP PROSPECTS.

(By Department of Agriculture, Apiaries Division, Wellington.)

The Director of the Orchards, Gardens, and Apiaries Division has received from apiary instructors the following reports concerning honey crop prospects:—

Auckland.—The dry weather complained of last month continues, and honey prospects are consequently very poor. The market is quiet.—G. V. Westbrooke.

Wellington.—I have to report the honey crop prospects are not looking as bright as formerly. Practically all through the past month the weather has not been favourable to the bee-keeping industry. Strong winds with occasional rains have prevailed generally. Beekeepers are feeding their stocks to keep up breeding.—F. A. Jacobsen.

Christchurch.—The dry spell has broken, much to the relief of beekeepers. Cold winds and rain set in, but it is well not to be too sanguine just yet as to what the crop will be. Much will depend on the weather during the next few weeks. Prices are unchanged at present, but there are prospects of a rise in the near future.—L. Bowman.

Dunedin.—Weather conditions are decidedly unfavourable to beekeepers in Otago and Southland. Hail, rain, snow and wind have prevailed generally, and this has had the effect of preventing swarming. Altogether the season is backward, and feeding operations are being carried on to replenish depleted stores. The outlook is not promising, as the bad conditions are delaying the clover blossoms. Usually at this season of the year there is abundance of clover, and bees are busy working the flowers; but as yet the clover is not secreting nectar except in warm situations. Queen breeders are experiencing difficulty in mating young queens, and the season so far has been unprofitable. Market conditions are unchanged. There is practically no demand for bulk lines. Beeswax is scarce, and parcels submitted at auction have realised up to 1s. 6d. per lb.—E. A. Earp.

ELIMINATING SCUM FROM HONEY, AND MANIPULATING FOR A SMOOTH-GRAINED ARTICLE.

At the recent Conference considerable discussion took place with reference to marketing honey free from scum, also in reference to manipulating honey to artificially produce a fine smooth grain. A question was asked, "What is scum?" and not satisfactory answer was received. The question was no doubt raised through the action of the Government honey graders in declining to grade honey for export with what they considered an excessive amount of scum on the top of the honey. The action of the Department was upheld by a large majority of beekeepers. No system or method by which a scumless fine-grained honey could be produced was sufficiently explained at the Conference; therefore it is hoped that this article will be of valuable assistance to the beekeepers of the Dominion.

Kind of Honey.

Recently I graded at Hawera a line of 200 tins of honey produced by Mr. J. Nicholas. It was the finest lot I have ever seen. Each tin was absolutely scumless, and the grain was perfect. Other lines from the same district were, without exception, coarser in the grain, and one lot in particular had from one to four inches of scum. Others had from a fraction to ¼-inch.

Mr. Nicholas has at the present time some 500 colonies of leather-coloured Italian bees in 12-framed hives. All the frames are staple spaced for easy manipulation. His apiaries are located in an extensive dairying district, and the flora from which the bees gather is rewa rewa and boxthorn in spring, white clover in abundance during the summer, and thistle and boxthorn in the late summer or autumn. The rewa rewa is used exclusively for brood-rearing. The honey he markets is clover, thistle, and possibly boxthorn mixed. If allowed to granulate under natural conditions, the honey has a rather sandy grain.

Equipment.

The plant necessary for the proper manipulation of honey is not expensive. As the illustrations indicate, it consists of a "Severn" capping melter, as was shown at the recent Conference, a small stove over which this is placed, a trough 7 ft. or 8 ft. long, 1 ft. wide, and about 9 in. deep, with a honey gate at one end, a tank to hold three or four tons of honey, which we call the settling tank, and two granulating tanks, each capable of holding half a ton.

The dimensions of the latter are as follow:—Length, 5 ft. 6 in.; depth, 1 ft. 9 in.; width, 1 ft. 9 in. The settling tank and the granulating tanks should each have a honey gate of 3 in. or 3½ in., the latter for preference.

Manipulation.

Mr. Nicholas uncaps over the capping melter at the rate of 100 combs per hour. He uses a steam-heated uncapping knife, and his extractor is driven by a 2½ horse-power benzine engine. The honey from the extractor runs directly through a strainer into the shallow mixing tank, and also the honey from the capping melter. The gate at the end of this tank is closed, and when it is nearly full the contents are stirred until the warm honey from the capping melter has been well mixed with the cold from the extractor. The gate is now opened,

and, as the house is built on a hillside, the honey gravitates into a cheese-cloth strainer, which is tied under the above honey gate and over the entire top of the three-ton settling tank. This cheese cloth strainer is tied very loosely, so much so that the centre portion will touch the bottom of the tank, which, when full, floats the strainer on the top of the honey. At times a large quantity of honey has been put through per hour, and it has never blocked up or given any trouble from first to last of a five-ton crop. When the tank is full for the last time, take up as much slack of the strainer as possible, then, when the majority of the honey has trained through dump the balance into the capping melter. It is very important to keep the tank covered with sheeting or canvas.

The honey is run from the big tank into the half-ton granulating tanks, and into each of these is mixed 10 lbs. or more of granulated honey. The more granulated honey mixed, the quicker will the granulation of the whole start. This 10 lb. is called starter. Probably the hardest work begins now, for it is no light duty to stir each of these tanks two half-hours a day. This, however, has to be done until the granulation is well forward, and a fine grain assured. When in this condition it is so thick that it will just run through the gate, and when tinned off will granulate within a few days. It is advisable to have a large gate in each of these tanks. Keep them covered as much as possible. Tin off three-quarters of each tank, and the next filling will be speeded up considerably.

Remarks.

It will be acknowledged that warming the honey to a thin consistency materially assists the strainers to properly perform their function in extracting from the honey particles of wax and other foreign bodies. Bubbles, froth, and scum are caught by the cheese-cloth strainer, and prevented from straining into the honey in the big tank. "With arrangements of this description," said Mr. Nicholas, "there is no necessity to skim any of the tanks. The heating and efficient straining eliminate the scum from the honey, and the stirring and starter gives a fine grain and quick granulation."

The Americans have for some time past advocated stirring the honey for a fine grain, and I have no doubt that our coarser grained honeys could be improved to a wonderful extent by this simple method. When the grain is coarse there is a certain amount of levulose and water which adheres to the granules, and this condition usually imparts a "mushy" appearance.

Honey should not, however, be stirred to excess, otherwise a soapy, flaky article will be the result. When in this condition it will draw out and impart a shiny and satin appearance, but it will not granulate hard and firm. It is also likely to change to a dull colour. Some, however, prefer it this way, as it spreads more easily on the bread.

The Capping Melter.

A number of beekeepers have condemned capping melters without giving them a fair trial, and to these I can recommend the "Severn," or Barnes," which are identical. Should their use not be considered advantageous, some other form of heating apparatus must be employed. The small stirring tank could be water-jacketed and connected with a boiler, or, failing this, lamps could be placed under the tank.

F. A. JACOBSEN.

SO-CALLED "SCUM."

By W. B. Bray.

The extracting season is close at hand again, and so far the Department have not given any indication of their future attitude to the above, neither have they offered a definite method of overcoming the particular condition referred to in the heading. To those who were not present at the last Conference, it is necessary to say that considerable interest was shown in the Department's decision to reject for export honey which had a layer of snowy granulation at the top. (Such honey had been passed the previous season, and it was not shown that buyers at the other end had any complaints to make.) Nobody seemed to have any solution of the cause of this condition, but the graders called it "scum"; yet it turned out that one line having several inches of it was liquified and regranulated, then it was passed by the grader. Clearly it is a physical condition of the honey. It will appear not only in distinct layers but in irregular pits, and sometimes in a ball in the centre of a block. Instances were given of different treatments being employed to overcome it, but still it appeared. I myself have had no experience of it, and the last two seasons I have handled close on twenty tons. I have tinned honey the day after extracting it, also a week to a fortnight after, and have stirred in granulated honey in some lots.

The cause of this snowy layer has been suggested to me as being air bubbles, and I believe it is correct. My own negative experience goes to prove it. I use 2-inch, 2½-inch, and 4-inch honey gates. I do not tin the honey off when it is well on the way to granulation, but while it still runs freely. By using nothing smaller than a 2-inch gate the honey runs off quickly in a solid stream. A smaller stream wobbles at the bottom, and carries down a lot of air bubbles. If the honey is thick and cold, or fairly well granulating, these bubbles do not rise to the surface proper and break, but they lie close to the surface, and cause the granulation to assume the appearance of snow. I should be interested to know whether others can trace the trouble to small honey gates.

As regards skimming the tank, I leave this operation till I am running the honey off. By the time the surface is nearly down to the honey gate all the scum proper will have run into a small mass directly over the gate, and it is then easily taken off.

To ensure the honey granulating with a fine and even grain, it is as well to stir a small quantity of fine grained honey into the tank when extracting. If this is not done the grain may vary from fine to coarse. The whole may be put into one grade, under a varying number of points, but the graders go to a lot of trouble to sort the honey out, so one kind of grain only is found in each case. But I may have something more to say another time about the amount of time that is spent on grading.

SUBSCRIBING TO BEE PAPERS.

YOUR SUCCESS DEPENDS UPON IT.

(By H. Bartlett-Miller.)

As a beekeeper in a fairly large way—that is, a beeman owning out-yards, and depending upon the bees for the larger portion of the annual income, I have realised that there is no surer way to measure the ultimate amount of success in his chosen avocation that any individual beekeeper will ultimately attain to than his desire to receive any or all the bee papers published. I state emphatically and without fear of successful contradiction that the beekeeper who thinks he has done all that is needful in the way of keeping himself well-informed by purchasing one bee paper, and one only, will never attain to anything above mediocrity either in possessing up-to-date plant or in knowledge of the best methods of manipulation, or the profit as the outcome of his year's labour.

There is no one phase of beekeeping to which I have given more constant attention than the attitude of each beeman I meet towards the bee papers, and continually, and with no single exception, have I found the man who did not think it worth his while to own at least one paper make a do of beekeeping worth telling about. No beeman who keeps up to date ever dreams of wasting time making improvements in sizes and shapes of hives, or of inventing new feeders, yet it is simply painful to listen to the zeal and expectations utterly wasted by novices and the men who cannot afford to take a bee paper over just these two subjects. One of the old text books on bee culture—which one I have not time just now to find out—says, and says most tritely, "One or more bee papers should be taken and studied, and the beginner who does not desire to possess more than he can afford to purchase will likely not make much of a stir in the occupation anyhow." Those words have stuck in my mind ever since I first read them, some ten or twelve years ago, and just now I can recall so many to whom they tritely refer. One person in particular, at one time the proud owner of 130 colonies and an up-to-date plant capable of handling any crop he could ever have raised, and with empty hives ready to accommodate 200 colonies, actually sent to the Alliance Box Co. of Dunedin the one shilling subscription for a six months (three months gratis) issue of "Gleanings," and his desire never got beyond that! Whenever we met his first question would be, "Anything new in the bee papers lately?" He knew I took four of them, and received sample copies of a few others, yet he thought it was good enough for him to scrape his neighbour's brains and save his own pocket. Truth was he had the bees but not the business bump of system, and to-day neglect and foul-brood have reduced that fine apiary of 130 colonies to a filthy remnant of twenty-seven, which the inspector has his eye upon for destruction if still foul-broody. A real good lively interest in a few bee papers, costing altogether probably a lonely one pound for a whole year's information, and the uplifting influence of his brother beekeepers' defeats and victories, not to mention the zeal-inspiring effect of the knowledge of the newest offers of the export trade would have so inspired him to action that the out-yard which he began with, a beggarly six hives, all

of which fizzled out from sheer neglect, might have grown to respectable dimensions, and have brought him profit and honour instead of loss and contempt. Now, this is not by any means a solitary instance. I have met so many zealous fever-smitten beekeepers, who really could not see what they needed with a bee paper when they had so good a book on beekeeping. I have seen one and all of them turn out arrant humbugs so far as beekeeping neighbours go. They lose interest in the bees, disease carries them off, and the progressive bee neighbour is as a result everlastingly combating foul-brood. So I say again, the measure of a beeman's ultimate success in the business can be exactly gauged by his desire to own a bee paper, and the keener man he is the more he will want to subscribe to. Those who are losing heart in their erstwhile feverishly followed hobby just subscribe to one or more bee papers, see what your brethren of the craft are doing at it, learn the new wrinkles, the disaster overcome that you never dreamed about, a thousand times harder to bear than the little set-back that is knocking your heart out of the business—the victories snatched from defeat, and the piling up of the profit as a result of determination born of the inspiration engenderd by reading of how the other fellow bucked up and won out, just as you can do by reading about it. Take it from me, sonny. If you do not feel you really want one or more bee papers coming to you, get out of the business quick. If you don't, the apiary inspector in the long run—and sometimes a very short run—will put you out. Don't be content with one paper. No bee paper "has it all." It was only reading continued references to articles in other papers that ever made me buy the third one I subscribe to. Our Journal is the fifth, and altogether they run into less than 30/- a year, and single articles in any one of them have saved me more than I shall ever spend in bee papers all my life. It will save you money, too. Don't forget it! Your measure of success depends upon your attitude towards the bee papers! The text-book is advice, not the other chap's experience. Only the beekeepers tell you that. Don't want to hear about it? Then listen! Save money now—get out of the bee business quick! You are a fool to your own interests, only you will never know it until the interest and the principal, too, mark you (i.e., the bees), are all gone.

If you have received a copy of a bee paper—this or any other—and did not want to own it, when subscribing to but one other, you will be the first man I ever knew who did anything worth the telling in the bee business. If I had time to read them—hold on!—I mean, to study them (reading a paper and studying it are two very different things), I would subscribe to every bee paper printed in English, and would make more than double the subscription price each year out of every one of them. I take five. I have had three successive bad honey years. I am still going strong, thanks only to the bee papers. I know every big beekeeper has had his period of bad years. I know because they have recounted it in the bee papers. That is why my heart is still in the business instead of being down in my boots. Last year I had my very worst year since I began. Did I fling up the job? Not I! The bee papers taught me better than that. I just kept on "saw-

ing wood,'' and got out a further set of 100 3-body hives and frames, just to let Dame Fortune see what I was made of. Of course, I could have sold out for a song, and now, instead of writing this article, be ruminating that beekeeping might be all right for some people in some places, but as for me I could not see my own use in perusing the Bee Journal seeing I am out of the business. Yes, I might have done—but, you see, the bee papers would not let me!

Are you going down that road yersel'? See here! Do you want to go. You didn't uster want ter go when first you began. No; but then I had bee fever. Well, get it again; you know you liked it almost as much as being in love—bedad, perhaps more! Then get it again! Buy up a few years' subscriptions to the bee papers. The bee fever germ is inside them. There is only one thing wrong with our very ownest own Journal—it costs 3/6! It ought to cost 5/-. It is worth ten times the sum for a whole year. Mr. Editor, please note!

BEEKEEPING AS AN OCCUPATION FOR WOMEN.

(By W. B. K.)

The Editor has suggested that I should write an article on "Beekeeping as an Occupation for Women." I scarcely think he has been happy in his choice of a subject. I am not at all sure that I am in favour of beekeeping being taken up by women as an occupation. I know that some consider it an ideal employment for delicate women; but as any beekeeper knows, it is heavy and arduous work, work that has to be done in the hottest weather and in the hottest part of the day. Further, a delicate woman is almost invariably a nervous woman, and to be even a fairly successful beekeeper nerves must be kept very much in the background. Nervousness may be hidden from the onlookers, but never from the bees. Then, again, what about the heavy lifts and the back-breaking stooping over hives!

When speaking of women beekeepers, I mean women who do the whole work of the apiary themselves, not those who go along with a well-trained man to do all the heavy work.

To be worthy of the name of a beekeeper, a woman must even put her own hives together, and this she could do quite well if she would only make up her mind to it, and refuse to listen to those who declare that a woman cannot under any consideration drive a nail straight.

Now, let us turn to the other side of the question. Why should not women become experts in queen-rearing? The work is fascinating, and requires dainty handling, patience, and special care, just the qualities in which women are conspicuous, and in my opinion in this branch they could very quickly leave their male competitors far behind.

When it comes to preparing syrup, making candy, and again in the preparing of the honey for market, if women are not well to the front they ought to be.

To sum up the whole matter, I believe it is not man versus woman in the apiary, but both working intelligently together that will make the greatest success of the business.

BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION.

NEW ZEALAND HONEY EXHIBIT.

Mr. T. W. Kirk supplies the following report on the British Dairy Farmers' Association Show, addressed to the Right Hon. the Prime Minister by Hon. Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner. It is to be regretted that for some reason not yet explained the exhibits sent by the National Beekeepers' Association on account of Messrs. J. Irving and J. Rentoul did not arrive in time:—

Sir,—In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 31st August, I instructed the Produce Commissioner to visit the show of the British Dairy Farmers' Association, and to make a report concerning the honey exhibit there.

This year a class for Colonial Honey was introduced for the first time at the Dairy Show. As a considerable quantity of colonial honey now comes regularly on the London market, it was hoped that advantage would be taken the opportunity for bringing it under the notice of consumers in this country. The result, however, has been disappointing. Only two exhibits of twelve 1-lb. bottles each were shown—one from New Zealand and the other from New South Wales.

The two exhibits which you informed me the National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand intended forwarding evidently had not arrived. Messrs. H. A. Lane & Co., to whom you stated they were being sent, had not received them. This firm had been notified of the intention of the Beekeepers' Association to send on an exhibit, and had taken space for twelve bottles. Owing to the non-arrival of the honey, they, at the last moment, filled twelve bottles with honey which they had in store, and sent these forward for competition, making the entries in the names of the owners—J. Irving (Albury), J. Rentone (Cheviot), and S. Hutchinson (Hamilton East). Naturally, the samples from different shippers varied considerably, and the exhibit consequently was not a satisfactory one. The exhibit from New South Wales, made by Messrs. W. D. Peacock and Co. on behalf of the Ngoora Apiary, Nemingha, Tanworth, was uniform, and much more attractive. Consequently it was placed first by the judges. No award was made to the New Zealand exhibits.

It was disappointing to find such a poor response to the invitation of the British Dairy Farmers' Association to compete. The opportunity was a good one for honey shippers in the colonies to bring under the notice of the trade and consumers here the excellence of their product. It must be recollected, however, by those who may contemplate in future taking advantage of the opportunity and making an entry that the quality of an exhibit must be of the finest and the get up attractive, otherwise their honey will compare unfavourably with the English exhibits that are staged alongside, and which are always remarkable for their excellence.

Excellent general displays of produce were made by the Commonwealth of Australia, by Queensland, and by South Aus-

tralia at the Dairy Show, and these proved of great attraction to visitors. On the South Australian stand a large and handsome exhibit of honey was shown. Handbills were distributed concerning the honey, and samples of it in 1-lb. and 2-lb. bottles were freely sold. By this means an excellent advertisement was undoubtedly secured.

(Signed) THOS. MACKENZIE.

Good Things from Everywhere.

"In the Multitude of Councillors there is Wisdom."

A Seasonable Hint.—It sometimes happens, especially later on in the season, that the bees follow up when the honey is being taken off, and make a demonstration in force outside the honey-house. To say the least, it is not pleasant to have them waiting outside all day. A good spray of water thrown about the shed for a few minutes will send them all home to get umbrellas, and give them a chance to forget their troubles. The honey-house will not be molested again that day.

To Get Bees out of a Tree or House.—The simplest way is to put a frame of brood with a young queen and frames of foundation in a hive close to the entrance. Cover the latter securely with wire-cloth, twisted to make a large cone, with room for one bee to escape at the top. The hole must be at the top, so as it will not clog with dead bees, and so as the bees will not find it in attempting to regain the entrance. Probably two nucleus colonies can be built into full-size colonies with the bees before they all emerge from the combs inside. When all the bees are out, the combs can be taken out at leisure, or, if in a difficult place, the entrance can be effectually blocked, and vermin can be trusted to deal with the combs inside.

Cold versus Hot Knives.—As good and as fast work can be done with a cold knife in uncapping if the knives are properly sharpened. The blunt knife melts its way through, and leaves a fine film of wax over the honey, which helps to block the strainer. It is also very unpleasant to be working near a heating apparatus. The writer keeps his knives sharper than a butcher keeps his knives.

Is it possible to cure a colony of bees slightly affected with foul-brood by starvation?——No. If the combs are all removed and starters given, and the bees are shut in and starved until all honey is exhausted and the bees beginning to drop, they will usually start clean. The difficulty, however, is to know when the honey is exhausted, and also the starving imposes a check that affects the colony for the season. It is better to use the McEvoy method, which aims at getting the bees to use the diseased honey in building combs, which are removed at the end of four days, and full sheets then given. No cure can be effected while combs containing infected material are in the hive.

The Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association has written to Dr. Frengley, the officer in charge of the Department which administers the Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, pointing out that the water content of honey ranges from as low as 14.43 per cent. up to, with one exception, 17.48 per cent., and asking him to take steps to amend the regulations by reducing the percentage of water allowed to 20 per cent. instead of 26 per cent. as at present. The very high percentage of water allowed by this regulation permits of unscrupulous traders adulterating honey by the addition of 6 per cent. of water. It is unnecessary to point out what a very serious effect such an addition would have upon honey and the honey market. If the honey were treated in this way, in a very short time after being sold it would ferment and cause no end of trouble.

Major Norton, writing from Queensland to his New Zealand manager, stated in the course of one of his letters:—"I have reason to believe that we will do even better for honey than I suggested, because, from what I can gather, owing to the absence of German beet sugar, all the cheaper honey on the markets of the United Kingdom is being bought up to take the place of beet sugar wherever possible. Accordingly there will be a greater demand for that from New Zealand. Doubtless this will be good news to New Zealand honey producers."

In answer to the question put to him by the Secretary of the National Beekeepers' Association at the request of a number of large producers: "Will the Department allow the use of second-hand cases or petrol cases for shipment to Bristol?" Mr. T. W. Kirk replies:—"I have at present no legal opinion on the matter, but personally I cannot see how the regulations can be suspended with regard to one firm without extending a similar relaxation to every person interested; and if this were done with respect to one portion of the regulations, it would have to be done in regard to others. In any case, if it is finally decided that exemption can be granted in this particular case, I presume that honey packed in second-hand cases would receive fewer points in the grading than would honey packed in new cases."——The question is, "Is it advisable to use second-hand cases if the use of these cases will mean the loss of points in grading?" It is a question which each beekeeper must answer for himself, and we shall be glad of an expression of opinion from readers.

Commercial Beekeeping as a Calling.—I cannot imagine any calling better suited to small settlers than commercial beekeeping in New Zealand. They can commence on the smallest capital, and get returns from the first to assist them as they enlarge their operations. They can be practically independent of employed labour—an enormous advantage in these days—and it is a healthy outdoor occupation. It must be remembered, however, that it requires a good deal of close application and perseverance to become a successful beekeeper. The careless, slovenly individual had better keep out of it, as he would lose by his attempt. To those fitted for it there is a comfortable living, and a small competency to reward those who persevere.—Journal of Agriculture.

We are proud to learn that a number of our younger beekeepers have joined the Expeditionary Force, and have left New Zealand to uphold the honour of the flag under which they live.

Painting Hives.

Why do most beekeepers paint their hives white? There is no reason at all for it. But in a couple of years it rubs off. A coloured paint will last many years. Add yellow ochre or yellow amber to the white lead and oil (raw linseeed) till a fairly yellow colour is obtained. The addition of the colouring material seems to give a harder and more lasting surface to the paint.

In nailing supers together square-head nails should be used. They should be punched in, and the holes filled with putty before being painted. For painting zinc or metal roofs a special red roofing paint should be got from a painter.

Do not keep bees; make the bees keep you.

Correspondence.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have had a good season so far, but if rain does not come at once it will be all up in a couple of weeks. Of course, it has been too early, and the bees could not take advantage of it, being too weak. Other years we have not had any clover honey till about Christmas, whilst this year it came on early in October. I noticed a couple of years ago that they had heat waves in Europe, and it was followed out here by a long spell of dry weather, and last summer they had the same, and now we have more dry weather. Their last winter was severe, so was ours. Is it anything to go by, or only a chance? If it is, and as Mr. Hopkins is going Home to live, if we could get him to take notice of the season there, whether it was early or late, and it followed round here the same, it would be very useful to us. Will you get someone to compare the past seasons and see if there is anything to go by. Of course, my interest in the honey flow only dates back about three years, and I have neither the time nor the convenience to study it up. I see a lot is said about the local and Home markets. I am in favour of export. I receive 4d. per lb. for my honey in bulk, but I have heard tell of its being sold for 2½d. per lb. here, and have seen lovely amber-coloured clover honey sold for 3d., so I am not pushing local trade at all, only selling what is asked for. Of course, they are only the box-hive beekeepers who do that. I am afraid I can offer no advice upon marketing. It is rather out of my line, but I am well satisfied with what has been done for the first year.—I am, &c.,

S. HERBERT.

Ruawai, Nov. 18, 1914.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—The Journal to hand regularly. I have been much struck by Major Norton's offer, and should consider it a splendid opportunity to bring the public of the Old Country more in touch with New Zealand's splendid honey. I knew some time ago that there was a honey bottling plant at Avonmouth (port of Bristol). Major Norton seems to be the right man to lick this honey trade into shape.

It would be a great pity if you had to stop this Journal. Surely the meanest beeman can afford 3/6.—I am, &c.,

R. H. NELSON.

Wai Tapu, Dec. 3rd, 1914.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—One of the greatest difficulties that we beekeepers in this district have to contend with is thick, unextractable honey. An article in the Journal describing the best means of dealing with it would be greatly appreciated by many here.—I am, &c.

NOVICE.

Hamilton, Waikato, Dec. 1st, 1914.

[Our correspondent will find his question answered on page 67, Sept. issue.—Editor.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I have just noticed your mention in the October number re prices of honey. I might mention that the season before last I took about three tons of good honey to Westport. I found some good imported honey there, but also some very poor and ill-got-up local honey. I put up mine in 5-lb. tins, and peddled most of it at 2/6 per tin. I found a very ready sale for it, and I promised the residents that I would go again last season, but unfortunately I had my left hand blown off, and did not get to Westport. I sold the Westport stores the remainder of my honey at 2/2 per 5-lb. tin. Last season I put up all my honey in 2-lb. honey pots, and sold to the Nelson retailers at 10/6 per dozen. That was the price I asked, and none of them tried to lower my price, and I had no bad debts. I was well pleased with the deal. This year I would like to see the Executive of the N.B.A. suggest a price, and also pass an opinion as to what they consider the most suitable packages. I might mention that the 1-lb. and 2-lb. honey-pots are very popular in the Nelson district.

I will be pleased to forward any information you may require from Nelson district or the West Coast.

Hoping this information may be of some little use to you,—I am, &c., P. McKAY.

Rockville, Collingwood, 10/11/14.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I was pleased to see the letter from "Sympathy" in the last issue, as it is a matter in which I think the Association could and should take a lead. I have already sent away a case, and I hope to contribute at least two more out of the coming crop. If all those who intend to donate honey would let our Secretary know, he could arrange for it all to be collected at the different ports, and sent away in one or more consignments. I think also that we should ask that the gift be earmarked for distribution amongst the hospitals for wounded, the orphanages, and refugees' camps, as it is more easily distributed at these places.—I am, &c.,

ANOTHER SYMPATHISER.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir,—I beg to differ with Mr. Cotterell's statement that queens reared in the tropics are specially favoured as the tropics were originally the home of the honey bees. If that is so, then the honey bee has had to adapt itself to the conditions of a colder climate, and thus the greater reason for having our queens bred and reared in the climate and under the conditions in which they will have to live. No great difference, perhaps, would be noticed for a few years in Island-bred queens if New Zealand stock was used to breed from; but in time the easy-going conditions there would tell on the constitution of the bees bred there and brought here to face sterner conditions.—I am, &c.

W. B. BRAY.

CO-OPERATIVE SELLING.

Sir,—Congratulations, Mr. Secretary Brickell. This is just what we want—a comprehensive and business-like scheme.

Now, beekeepers all, rally up; give up trying to row your own little boats, put your left hand in your pocket, and pull altogether with your right, and it is a case of "habet" to the honey producers in New Zealand as a whole.

By no means must our Journal fall through, either; it is an important unit in the chain of unity; 'tis but a small chick yet, certainly, but it does not cost much, and will grow if you feed him properly.—I am, &c.,

W. E. BARKER.

POVERTY BAY BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Poverty Bay Beekeepers' Association was held in Townley's Hall recently. There was a good attendance. The question of honey prices was discussed, and a standard price agreed upon. The Government Apiary Department seeks samples of honey from this district to determine by investigation the source of samples by pollen grains contained in the honey. It was also agreed that the Association co-operate with other societies in making an apiarian display at the forthcoming Winter Show. Owing to the rise in the price of tins and honey pots, and also to the fact that the wholesale price of honey in Gisborne has for years been lower than in any other town in the Dominion, the price for 2-lb. tins and pots for the coming season, or until further notice, will be 10/- per dozen wholesale.

The Bulletin Board.

MARKET REPORTS FROM FAR AND NEAR.

Beeswax.—Prime clear, 1/3 to 1/3½; dark, 1/1 to 1/2 per lb.

Honey.—Sixty-pound tins of choice western 4d.; good 2¾d. to 3½d.; Northern River, good 3¼d., dark 2¾d, candied 2¼d. per lb.—Sydney Sun, Nov. 20.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following subscriptions have been received since last issue:—Messrs. Askew Bros., R. C. Curtis, T. J. Dobbing, J. Foster, — Hildreth, H. Hope, W. Kingston, W. M. Livingstone, W. G. Little, A. E. Mukkelsen, F. McRae, N. Napier, — Pearle, H. Quartermaine, Wm. Riley, A. Rennall, Chas. Stewart, H. Stammers, — Wealleans, A. Werner.



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2 Frame (Nucleus Colony)	Each—10s.
3 " " "	" 12/6.
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Full Colony on 10 Frames	£1 12s.

To the above prices must be added the price of the Queen required.

BEES Free from Disease. and bred from good stock. All care taken to ensure safe transit, but no responsibility taken with the colonies. I will, however replace a dead queen, from the mail, if the box is returned intact.

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THE "DAWSON ENTRANCE FEEDER."

The most Economical Feeder to use.
Saves TIME, LABOUR, & EXPENSE. Three great factors of importance to the Bee-keeper.

Some Facts about this Feeder.
- It can be adjusted for use in one minute.
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- One hundred Colonies can be fed in as many minutes.

Try one on each hive. Feed a little each morning early with a syrup of "two of water to one of sugar," and see how the bees will forge ahead to the point of storing a surplus in most cases.

PRICE - 1/8 Each. Per Doz. - 18/-.

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	1	2	3	4	5
Untested	5/-	9/6	14/-	18/-	22/-
Select Untested—1/- extra per Queen.					
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Queens supplied at above prices from a new strain procured from the A. I. Root Company, and tested during last season, at customer's option.

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P.O. Order Office, Tapanui. Address: R. STEWART, Crookston, Otago.

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